

U.S. selecting military bases for closure

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defense Department announced Friday it will shut down or reduce operations at an additional 29 overseas military bases under current plans to trim the size of U.S. forces worldwide. The announcement of overseas closures in Germany, Greece, Japan, the Netherlands and Britain came as details were disclosed at the Pentagon of Secretary Les Aspin's proposal to shut down 31 major military installations in the United States and scale back or realign another 134. Friday's 19th round of overseas reductions brought to 704 the number of installations where U.S. military activity is being ended, reduced or placed on standby, a 42 per cent reduction since January, 1990, the department said. Of them, 16 are in Europe. Another 32 sites in Europe are being reviewed for partial or complete return to host governments, the Pentagon said. The 29 announced Friday were 14 in Germany, four in the Netherlands, two in Britain, eight in Greece and one in Okinawa, Japan, totaling 2,200 military positions, 150 U.S. civilians and 650 local jobs. They included closing of major U.S. Air Force facilities at Iraklion, Greece, and of Balin army ammunition depot near Pirmasens, Germany.

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Arab Congress
Lebanon activists
Jordans activists

Palestinian and Israeli killed, soldier found dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian was shot dead, a missing soldier was found murdered Friday along a road highway, and an Israeli woman was killed by Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip, authorities said.

A hospital in Hebron in the West Bank said Mousa Al Haimoni died from a bullet wound in his stomach. The army said it was checking the report.

Residents said he was shot by soldiers during stone-throwing clashes and reported three other Palestinians wounded.

Several hours earlier, the body of Simcha Lavie, 51, was found outside a Palestinian town in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli security said Lavie's body was found in a mini-bus she used daily to carry Palestinian workers from the Arab town of Khan Younis to Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

"The murder was accomplished with blows with an axe and knife stabs to the upper portion of the Israeli woman's body," army radio said.

Unlike most Jews in Gaza, she had lived for many years among Palestinians in the area and moved to one of the fortified Jewish settlements only three years ago, Israelis and Arabs said.

The missing-and-found soldier, Yehoshua Friedberg, was shot several times, police said. It was unclear whether the 24-year-old immigrant from Montreal, Canada, was killed or committed suicide.

But a police announcement said just after sundown — the start of the Jewish Sabbath that investigators concluded Friedberg was murdered. Israel Television quoted police as saying an

Arab headdress was found near the body.

The woman slain in Gaza was the third Israeli victim in Gaza in 10 days. Her body was found about 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) in her vehicle parked near the town of Khan Yunis in the southern end of the strip.

The killing of Ms. Cavis was claimed by the Red Eagles movement, a faction of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Violence fuels debate

The increased violence came as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was in the United States to discuss plans to restart Middle East peace talks, which deadlocked after Israel expelled some 400 Palestinian activists in December.

Settlers in Gaza's Gush Katif area responded to the slaying by announcing they would no longer employ Palestinian labourers anymore. Hundreds of Palestinians work in Gush Katif, a cluster of six settlements, doing mainly menial agricultural work.

Police said they would try to check the violence inside Israel by increasing patrols and putting up more roadblocks to check Palestinians entering Israel, Israeli radio said. They also urged Israelis to carry personal weapons, Israel Television reported.

The increased attacks prompted calls for many Israelis for more measures against Palestinians. A poll published by Mariv said 76 per cent objected to permitting Palestinians to continue working in Israel.

Right-wingers blamed Israel's suggestions it would trade land for peace at Middle East peace talks for the deterioration.

Liberal Israelis also expressed alarm.

"We are watching a daily deterioration in the personal safety of every Israeli," columnist Yoel Marcus wrote in the liberal Haaretz.

"Isn't it ironic how a modern nation armed with the newest planes, missiles and nuclear power, finds itself threatened by primitive weapons?" he added.

In Beit Hanoun in Gaza, 24

Arab coordination talks set for March 28 Kaddoumi arrives in Amman, pays tribute to Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab parties to peace talks with Israel will meet at ministerial level in Damascus on March 28 and 29 to discuss the stalled Middle East peace process, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Friday.

Dr. Abu Jaber said Jordan's response to the recently issued American-Russian invitation to the next round of peace talks in Washington in April would be announced after the Damascus meeting.

Dr. Abu Jaber said he received

the invitation to attend the Damascus talks from his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharqi, who called him over the phone last night.

"We will be going to the meeting," he said.

In addition to the Jordanian and Syrian foreign ministers, the two-day meeting will also be attended by the foreign minister of Lebanon and the head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Farouk Kaddoumi, as well as the foreign minister of Egypt.

The central theme of the meet-

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pended."

Jordan has been non-committal on its attendance at the peace talks and Syria and Lebanon have not commented on the issue.

"We have to consult with Arab partners," on the invitation, which sets the ninth round of bilateral talks to begin in Washington on April 20, Dr. Abu Jaber told the *Jordan Times* Friday.

Mr. Kaddoumi, who arrived here Friday after talks in Damascus, told reporters in the Syrian capital that "if Washington and Israel fail to respond to Palestinian demands, the bilateral and multilateral meetings will be sus-

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians see American pressure for talks

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestinian rejection of the joint U.S. and Russian invitation to the ninth round of Mideast peace talks is the clearest signal that the Palestinian leadership is firm about boycotting the next round unless some of their demands, which came in six points discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem, are met.

The Palestinians had apparently hoped for more time before the invitations were delivered to resolve some

issues they view as obstacles to achieving any progress in their bilateral negotiations with Israel.

Palestinian officials, who described the issuance of the invitations to the talks in Washington in April 20 as premature, said Washington was apparently trying to pressure the Palestinians into attending the negotiations without receiving substantive Israeli concessions on its Dec. 17 expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians.

The Palestinians had apparently hoped for more time before the invitations were delivered to resolve some

with the PLO.

Palestinian analysts, however, said that the invitations had to be issued before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington, which started Thursday, so as not to "appear as if the date was set by Israel and the U.S."

Palestinian insiders also criticised what they saw as a hasty rejection of the invitation, a decision said to have been taken unilaterally by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat without consulting neither his advisors nor his peace delegates in

(Continued on page 5)

Exiles rejected reported PLO plan

MAR AL ZOHOUR (Agencies) — Palestinians expelled by Israel rejected Friday a reported plan for their phased return home, insisting all must go back at once.

The proposed phased return is absolutely rejected by (expellees) especially as we have vowed to God that we will return collectively," Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, leader of the 396 exiles said at their camp in South Lebanon.

A Palestinian official said in Damascus Thursday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) suggested to Egypt and Syria that the exiles should return home to the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip by June.

Syria and Egypt worked on new ideas in Cairo Thursday to solve the crisis over the Dec. 17 expulsions and resume Middle East peace talks on April 20 stalled by the expulsions.

The United States and Russia have invited Arabs and Israelis to resume the peace talks but Palestinians refuse to go until Israel pledges not to expel any more people from the occupied territories.

Dr. Rantisi, a 45-year-old paediatrician and founding member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, said it was impossible Arab states would attend the peace talks before the exiles return home.

"We tell... Arab brothers: Our stand is firm and will not change and we are confident they will stand by us, support our steadfastness and back our position until we return," he said.

The men took advantage of a warm and sunny day at their tent camp on a barren hillside to

FBI traces funds it says could have financed New York blast

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Tens of thousands of dollars that the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) says financed the World Trade Centre bombing was wired to the two main suspects from Germany, a federal investigator said Friday.

The investigator, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that bank records in New Jersey showed

transfers from Germany to an account held jointly by suspects Mohammad Salameh and Nidal Ayyad.

"We speculate that the money was used for the bombing, possible escape, safe houses and other terrorist activities," said the investigator. "Our main thrust is where the money came from."

Mr. Ayyad was denied bail Friday after a judge agreed with prosecutors that he posed a

"threat" to society.

The Westdeutsche Genossenschaftsbank in Duesseldorf confirmed Friday that on Feb. 17 it transferred \$2,420.07 to a New Jersey bank account jointly held by the two suspects.

Thomas Rindfuss, a spokesman for the German federal criminal police in Wiesbaden, said U.S. authorities had sent a request for assistance to the justice ministry in Bonn.

The New York Times and New York Newsday, citing unidentified sources, reported Friday that \$8,000 wired to the account of the two suspects has been traced to Germany.

Mr. Higgins said that's about all.

But U.S. Magistrate Dennis Cavanaugh ordered Mr. Ayyad, 25, held without bail.

Mr. Higgins said Mr. Ayyad would remain in the Union County jail in New Jersey, pending an

(Continued on page 5)

Relatives describe Nidal Ayyad as unlikely bomber

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nidal Ayyad, the second suspect charged last week with helping the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York, comes from a background highly unlikely to see him involved in extremist activities, according to his relatives in America.

Although a devout Muslim, Mr. Ayyad, a Kuwait-born Palestinian who acquired American nationality in 1991, was "not an Islamist fundamentalist or extremist," said his maternal grandfather, Abdul Aziz Ayyad.

"Nidal is definitely the victim of someone's plot," he added.

Sheikh Ayyad and other members of the family confirmed Nidal knew Mohammad Salameh, another Jordanian of Palestinian origin who is also charged in the

bombing case, and that the parents of Mr. Salameh had visited the Ayyads in Amman to inquire about their son.

The parents, friends and relatives of Mr. Salameh also maintain that he was also an unlikely candidate to become an extremist, turning away from his obsession with making a decent living to support his family.

Nidal, 25, is the eldest of six children — four boys and two girls, born to Abdul Rahim Ayyad and Fatima Abdul Aziz Ayyad in Kuwait in July 1967.

The Ayyads, originally from

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Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY MARCH 13, 1993

Egypt's mosque assault — second time around

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — Egyptian police have twice stormed the Al Rahman Mosque in seven years. The first time, they seized Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the spiritual mentor of Egypt's militants and in the second, they rounded up his men.

Security officials said the sweep against militants of Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) inside Al Rahman Mosque in this southern tourist town was deliberately ferocious to kill any chance for the militants to rise up again.

"The police have carried out a cleansing operation. This was a lesson for the militants not to do anything in the future. They have been taught a lesson," Aswan's Director of Tourism Mahmoud Fahmi told Reuters.

Nine militants were killed and 41 were wounded when police forces burst into the militantly-controlled Al Rahman Mosque where up to 200 men, women and children were praying Tuesday night.

Islamic Group militants, led by Sheikh Abdul Rahman, a blind preacher in exile in the United States, are fighting to turn Egypt into a purist Islamic state and have devastated its tourist industry with attacks on foreigners.

Security sources and lawyers said security forces had surrounded Al Rahman Mosque first in 1986. They stormed it and arrested Sheikh Abdul Rahman with 23 of his followers. The preacher was freed five days later and was flown to Cairo for interrogation.

In 1981 the sheikh was tried but acquitted on charges of sanctifying the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. He has been living in the United States since 1990.

Two of his alleged followers have been arrested in connection with the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York last month in which five people were killed and more than 1,000 were wounded.

Security officials said militant activity grew over the past two years in Aswan, which is the major tourist centre in Egypt's southernmost province.

Followers from nearby towns and villages would flock to Al Rahman Mosque every week to take part in meetings and seminars debating Islamic laws and edicts, they said.

Residents said militant ideas were spreading fast among youngsters who were being told by fundamentalist clerics that foreign tourists "were infidels" and that working in the industry was a "sin" because foreigners were corrupt.

The sources said the number of militants in Aswan and nearby villages was up to 1,000.

A lawyer acting for some of the 87 militants arrested after surviving Tuesday's mosque assault accused the security forces of deliberately trying to kill as many as possible of the 200 worshippers packed into the building.

"Considering that Aswan is an important resort that attracts big numbers of tourists, the government wanted to show an iron fist. It decided to abort these groups which it felt were starting to cause danger..."

"It decided to hit them in their cradle before they could be able to carry out any acts of aggression. It suddenly felt that they have become a danger," he added.

"The security forces entered the mosque to physically eliminate as many people as possible. It was not to arrest them because the security bodies know exactly where they live and have definite information about their movements," Hassan Mohammad Hassan said.

"If they had wanted to arrest them, they could have done it without a single drop of blood," he said. "But the aim was to terrify all those who believe in their ideas."

After the assault, many militants shaved their heads and replaced their white robes with trousers and shirts to avoid being detained by police, residents said.

Cairo violence

In Cairo, security forces have promised a war to the death against militants.

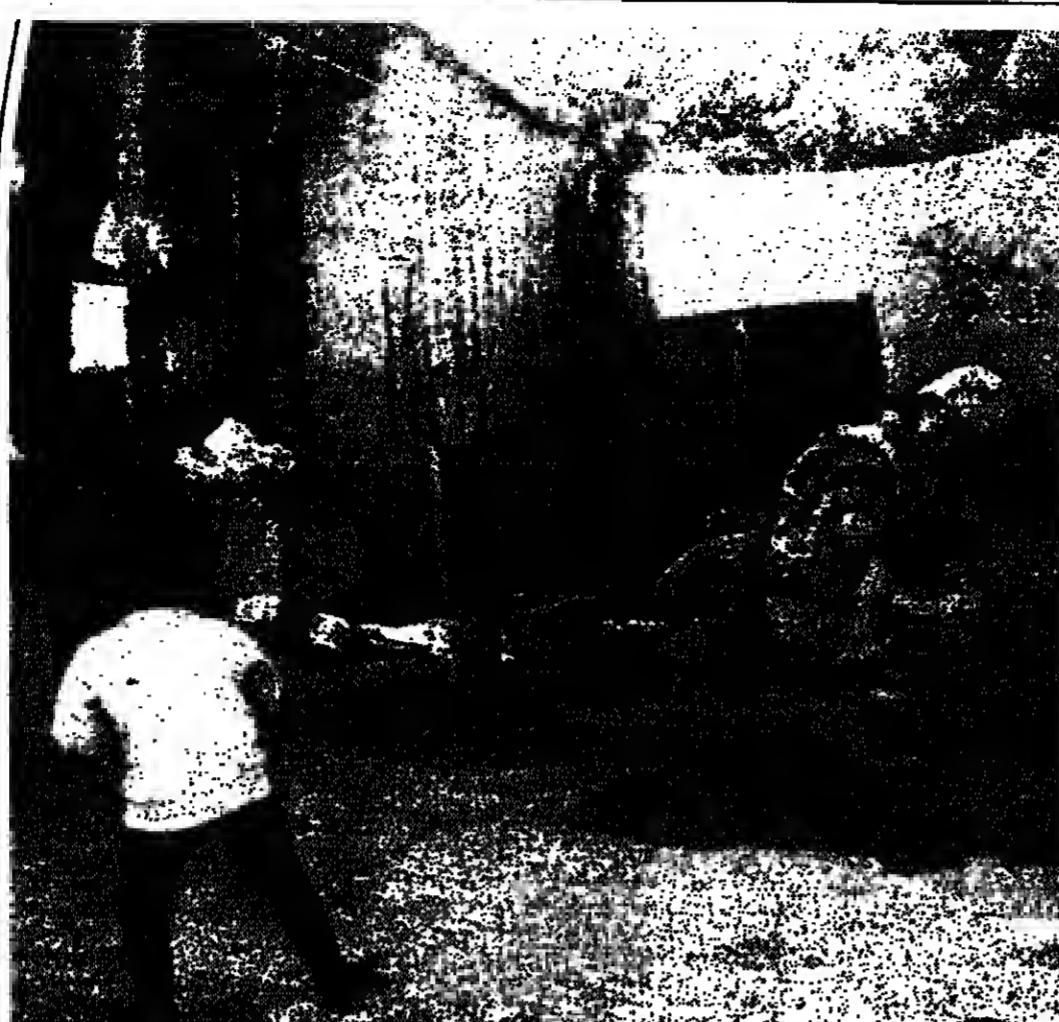
Police, who also shot dead the wife and child of one suspect in Cairo, lost one officer and four troopers killed. The total death toll of 23 was the highest in a single series of clashes since political violence surged to Egypt a year ago.

"The death of some of our men will not divert us from attacking the extremists until they are totally eradicated and stability returns to our country," a senior security officer told Reuters at the funeral of the dead police in Cairo.

Interior Minister Abd Halim Mousa led an emotional procession of hundreds of relatives and colleagues of the dead through the centre of the capital after the government's most senior Muslim scholar prayer prayed over the coffin in a mosque.

A traffic policeman was killed Thursday when gunmen suspected of being Muslim militants attacked a checkpoint near Timsa, 365 kilometres south of Cairo, security sources said.

They said four or five gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons on a checkpoint on the main road through the Nile Valley and the 45-year-old policeman died immediately.



A Somali child looks at an American Marine patrolling a Mogadishu shantytown (AFP photo)

Somali warlords prepare for reconciliation meeting

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia's warring factions Wednesday fine-tuned proposals they plan to present at a landmark national reconciliation conference next week.

The U.S.-led multinational task force said it was maintaining a high state of readiness ahead of the March 15 U.N.-sponsored talks in Ethiopia in any case any group tried to cause trouble aimed at disrupting the conference.

Farouk Mawlawi, U.N. spokesman in Somalia, told Reuters his rival, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, met with their aides in separate meetings to formulate their proposals for the conference.

"We are busy working and re-working our proposals for the meeting," Mr. Aideed aide Issa

Mohammad Said told Reuters. U.N. officials said that in the north of Mogadishu, Mr. Ali Mahdi was chairing a cabinet meeting called to work out a final document for his movement.

Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi halted a two-year blood feud in December under intense U.N. and U.S. pressure after U.S.-led military forces landed in Somalia to protect food aid for the starving.

Gen. Aideed is going to Addis Ababa Sunday with special demands that be and his allies receive special status at the reconciliation conference to reflect their role in toppling dictator Mohammad Siad Barre.

Mr. Ali Mahdi on the other hand, has accepted U.N. proposals that the talks also group religious leaders and elders in an attempt to set up as broad a base for discussion as possible.

Somalia collapsed into civil war after Mr. Siad Barre's downfall in 1991 and Mr. Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aideed both feel they have a legitimate claim to be the next head of state.

The U.S.-led forces said they were on the lookout for trouble ahead of the meeting.

"We are out on alert but I can tell you we are in a high state of readiness. It's too quiet and we're getting suspicious just to ease someone out there tries to cause trouble in order to disrupt the conference," Fred Peck, U.S. military spokesman in Somalia, told reporters.

Colonel Peck said the U.S.-led forces, due to hand over command to a new United Nations force, hoped the conference would produce concrete results on issues such as disarmament and the setting up of political structures in the country.

As many as 28,000 of the 36,000 troops in Operation Restore Hope, launched on Dec. 9, were Americans.

But the new force, made up of contingents from 20 countries, will be more diverse. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has set May 1 as the date for the transfer of command to the new 28,000-strong multinational force.

Peres voices concern over German far-right

BONN (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Thursday he was concerned at rising support for the far-right in Germany but he believed Germans had stood the test of democracy.

Mr. Peres, summing up a two-day visit, said he found that German leaders were also worried about the gains of the anti-foreigner Republicans in a state election last weekend and a recent wave of racist violence.

"But when we see the results of elections, we must also take a good look at the reaction of the German people," he told a news conference.

The Republicans, led by a former soldier in Hitler's Waffen-SS, won up to 15 per cent in some areas a Hesse state in the first barometer of voter sympathies since more than 2,280 right-wing attacks killed 17 people last year.

Mr. Peres said repeated rallies against racism last year by hundreds of thousands of Germans had helped reassure Israel that the majority did not agree with the far-right.

"Needless to say we don't share the German's pessimism about Germany. We don't accept the fashionable feeling in Germany that you have to start everyday with a mood of 'bonjour tristesse' (sadness)," he said.

Mr. Peres, accompanied by a business delegation, signed a bilateral agreement with Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel Tuesday pledging closer economic and technological ties.

They agreed to set up a joint council for cooperation in environmental technology and to double funds for a scientific research and development foundation to 300 million marks (\$180 million), to be split between the two states.

Discussing the environmental accord, he said: "We are struggling against the desertification of the Middle East. We have an increase in population and a decline in the fertility of the land."

Mr. Kinkel has said Germany would try harder to increase and improve Israel's trade agreements with the European Community.

Mr. Peres said Israel wanted to see a renegotiation of a 1975 economic cooperation agreement to give it a better chance to compete on European markets.

Israel purchased \$3 billion of EC goods annually but only \$4.5 billion worth of Israeli exports went to Europe, Mr. Peres said. Equally Israel bought \$2.25 billion of food from Germany but sold only around \$1.25 billion.

Environment Minister Klaus Toeplitz will visit Israel on March 16 to 19 for talks with Israeli government leaders and scientists about projects to protect the environment, his ministry said in a statement.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Morocco denies mistreatment of prisoners

RABAT (R) — The Justice Ministry Thursday denied local press reports that prisoners in Moroccan jails were mistreated or had died as a result of bad conditions. In a statement carried by the official news agency MAP, the ministry said there was no discrimination between prisoners, except that adults and children, men and women, were detained separately. Relatives of political prisoners had a news conference last month that 21 prisoners had died in 1991-92 as a result of the conditions of detention. "Apart from rare cases of suicide, all other cases were due to natural causes, which were the subject of medical inquiries to establish the cause of death and type of treatment," the ministry said. "In apparent reference to political prisoners, the ministry said that it cannot grant privileges or facilities to certain detainees without it granting them to all their co-detainees, because granting them to all at the same time to all their co-detainees, because prison regulations forbid favouritism." It said doctors and dentists had been recruited to treat inmates and the seriously ill were taken to outside hospitals. It added that all prisoners were allowed to pursue studies and in the last five years 5,855 persons won diplomas while in custody.

Australian troops kill Somali bandit

MOGADISHU (R) — An Australian patrol shot dead a Somali bandit near the southern town of Baidoa Thursday, the U.S. military said Friday. The six bandits had opened fire on the patrol, part of the multinational force sent to Somalia last year to stop bandits looting relief food for the hungry. "The patrol returned fire, killing one Somali. The remaining bandits fled into the night, killing one Somali. The remaining bandits fled into the night, killing one more," the military report said. The death was the only casualty in a series of minor incidents of shooting between the foreign troops and Somali gunmen over the past two days.

Syria to pay April salaries early

DAMASCUS (R) — Finance Minister Khaled Mahayni said Thursday that he asked all finance departments to pay the April salaries for government employees from March 20, about 10 days early, for the feast of Eid Al Fitr. Salaries in Syria are paid at the beginning of each month.

Children make toy 'bomb' in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Two children endeared themselves to the U.S. embassy in Cairo earlier this week by making a toy "bomb" at an apartment block where American families live, a diplomat said Thursday. He said the doorman found the device, made of two mineral water bottles and some noise-making fireworks, and showed it to a U.S. resident, who took it to the embassy. Foreigners living in Cairo are on the alert because Muslim militants fighting to turn Egypt into a purist Islamic state have been attacking tourists and have threatened that their next target might be foreign businesses.

German policeman shoots dead Turkish Imam

HAMBURG, Germany (R) — An Imam attached to Turkey's consulate here was shot dead by a German plainclothes policeman after pointing a gun at him, police said Thursday. Turkey's ambassador in Bonn, Onur Oeyen, said he was waiting for investigations to finish and that he had complete confidence in the German authorities. He described the 41-year-old man as a diplomat and said he had the right to carry a weapon for self-defence. Police said the Turk was bending over a German man dying from a shot wound when the plain clothes policeman, who had been alerted by the sound of shots, shouted at him. The policeman raised a gun and aimed at the policeman, they said. The policeman then shot him dead. No details about the dead German were released. A police spokeswoman said no other weapons had been found, adding that it was still not clear what had happened.

Bangladesh offers to export manpower to Kuwait

DHAKA (AP) — Bangladesh Thursday offered to recruit more manpower to rebuild war-battered Kuwait. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia told a special envoy of Kuwait's Emir Dr. Ahmad Abdulla Al Rubie, Kuwait's education minister, brought a message from Sheikh Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah thanking Bangladesh for its support to his emirate during the Gulf war. Bangladesh had sent more than 2,000 troops to the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq during the Gulf war. Nearly 70,000 Bangladeshi workers who were forced to return home from the oil-rich country during the war have been reemployed.

Zambia breaks links with Iran, Iraq

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Zambia has severed diplomatic relations with Iran and Iraq, claiming agents from those countries assisted in an opposition plot to topple the government.

Foreign Affairs Minister Vernon Mwaanga told parliament he summoned the ambassadors from Iran and Iraq to his office earlier and told them they were being expelled.

Mr. Mwaanga said diplomatic ties had been broken because "as a sovereign state we cannot and will not tolerate outside interference in our internal affairs."

Last Thursday, President Frederick Chiluba declared a state of emergency in Zambia and said relations with Iran and Iraq would be reviewed.

Government officials have since said agents from those

countries were behind a plot codenamed Operation Zero Option by the opposition United National Independence Party (UNIP) to overthrow the government.

The aim was to make Zambia ungovernable through strikes, riots and lawlessness.

Under the emergency, police detained without charge 26 UNIP members, including two former President Kenneth Kaunda's sons for alleged involvement in the plot.

Iraq expresses regret at Zambian decision to expel its diplomats, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

A Foreign Ministry statement denied involvement in Zambia's internal affairs and said the government's action "exposed political purposes."

Iran may be greater U.S. enemy than Iraq

By Alan Elsner

WASHINGTON — Iran may turn out to be a greater threat to U.S. interests in the long term than its neighbour Iraq, some officials and analysts believe.

While Iraq is subject to tight international sanctions, constant surveillance and intrusive inspections, Iran has been quietly rearming and is pursuing an active nuclear weapons programme, U.S. officials say.

It has also emerged as the key force opposing Arab-Israeli peace efforts, while bankrolling some of the most dangerous factions in the Middle East.

A State Department last week branded Iran the world's "most dangerous state sponsor of terrorism" and accused the Iranian intelligence service of involvement in assassinations and

bombings in the Middle East, Europe and Latin America in the past year.

"Iran is more a problem of one person — Saddam Hussein," said one State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Iran is a problem because of the ideology of an entire regime. Therefore one could argue that in the long term Iran will be more of a problem than Iraq," he said.

When Terry Anderson, the last American hostage held in Beirut by Iranian-backed guerrillas, was released at the end of 1991, it looked as if relations between Tehran and Washington might improve.

But neither side made a move towards the other and relations today are, if anything, characterised by even greater mutual hostility and suspicion.

Moderate Iranians advocate

catering warmer relations with the West may have been weakened when Tehran did not receive the kind of recognition they expected for its release of hostages and we believe we have had some success in restraining and retarding their programme," said the State Department official.

"There are Iranians who say they made serious concessions and did not get anything in return," said Shireen Hunter, an analyst with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think-tank.

For other, more radical elements, anti-Americanism and anti-Zionism remain the sacred legacy of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Shocked by Iraq's success in building a nuclear weapons programme that came close to producing a bomb, the United States has invested considerable diplomatic efforts to stall what it believes

is a similar Iranian effort.

"We believe they are working on a nuclear weapons programme which is at a very early stage and we believe we have had some success in restraining and retarding their programme," said the State Department official.

But it has proved impossible to prevent Iran acquiring some conventional weapons that Washington would rather Tehran did not have.

Russia sold Iran three Kilo class submarines last year, of which one has been delivered so far. It is stationed near the Strait of Hormuz, a major oil waterway.

"About the only thing they could do with that kind of submarine is sink regional merchant shipping. We don't like that," said the official.

On the political front, Iran has waged an offensive against the Arab-Israeli

ministry in the Middle East.

AMMAN: Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikha 753405
Dr. Wadi Khurabeh 615648
Dr. Fakhri Bileshi 663412
Firdous pharmacy 661712
Al Nouran pharmacy 670355
Narouk pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeissani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

WEATHER
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It will be cold and partly cloudy, and winds will be westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

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BRIEF
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His Majesty King Hussein joined worshippers in attending Friday prayers at King Abdullah Mosque in Amman. The King and worshippers listened to the sermon delivered by Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Ahmad Helayel. Also attending Friday prayers were members of the Royal Family, Prime minister Sharif Zeid Ben

Shaker, Speaker of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayed, a number of cabinet ministers and senior military and civil officials (Petra photo)

New book outlines make-up of both houses of Parliament

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As far as personality profiles go, "Who is Who in Jordanian 1989-1993," a recently released booklet, is a commendable effort since it is the first of its kind published in English.

The 150-page paperback provides a brief outline of the background of the members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament based on information provided by the parliamentarians themselves, reference books and data collected by its author Tim Riedel, a student of political science. Presented in a blue cover with a superimposition of the Jordanian flag, the book is a useful reference for many who would like to get a first look at the composition of the Jordanian Parliament.

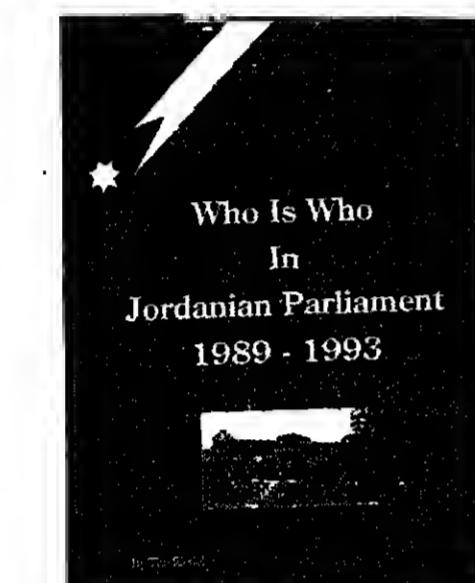
The publication, financed by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, an institution affiliated with the Social Democratic Party of Germany, provides basic information on each of the 80 elected members of the Lower House and 40 appointed members of the Upper House.

Included are details such as date and place of birth, religion, ethnic origin, constituency, educational background, profession, foreign language proficiency (if any), family status, membership in parliamentary committees and political orientation (wherever identified) of the 120 parliamentarians alongside their photographs.

Conspicuous by its absence though is the voting record of the parliamentarians on issues indicative of their political and social outlooks and approach to financial issues.

The bibliography of the book lists as references personal interviews, data provided by the House of Parliament, Adnan Bayoun's "Who is Who in Jordan" (1985), Samer Hijazi's "Encyclopedia on Jordanian Personalities" (1992), and Hani Kheir's "An Illustrated Historical Survey" (1990), as well as various issues of the Jordan Times.

Edited and published by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and printed in Jordan, the booklet is released at a time when international attention on Jordan is on the rise, if only because of the fast pace that the



democratisation has picked up, and could go a considerable way in familiarising first-comers with the political colour and structure of the Kingdom's parliament.

Probably because English is a foreign language for its author, shortcomings are also evident in terms of linguistics and structure, something that could be rectified if there was to be a reprint of the book.

A brief note introduces the author, Mr. Riedel, as born in Munich in 1969. A student of political science and law at the Free University in Berlin, Mr. Riedel has worked with Friedrich Ebert Foundation as part of his studies. He is said to be specialising on the systems of internal politics, studying the political party and system and procedures of decision-making in Jordan.

Who is Who in Jordanian Parliament 1989-1993, Riedel, Tim, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, pp150, Garabi Printing Press, Amman, 1993 (price not mentioned).

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince prays in Naour

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended Friday prayers at Naour Grand Mosque. The Prince and worshippers listened to the sermon which focused on the lessons learnt from the Badr Battle. Attending the prayer also were deputies from Naour and several senior military and civil officials.

Sharif Zeid calls for drought study in badia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker is expected to pass a decision authorising a subsidy and assistance to livestock breeders in the Badia region based on a study of the impact of drought in that area. A drought committee will meet Saturday to study the subject and propose practical solutions, in line with the Prime Minister's instructions.

British envoy arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Assistant Under-Secretary of the British Foreign Office for Middle Eastern Affairs Michael Burton arrived in Amman Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with senior officials for talks on the latest developments in the Middle East peace talks and Jordanian-British relations. The British official was received at the airport by Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry Hussein Hamami and the British Ambassador to Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition entitled "The Present Islamic World in Photos and News" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

17

Official to participate in U.S. educational reform programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Ministry of Education Planning, Development and Research Department Mohammad Ayasrah left for Washington Thursday to represent Jordan in a month-long American programme on education innovations and reform, organised by the United States Information Agency (USIA).

In a departure statement, Dr. Ayasrah said the programme will enable participants to obtain first-hand information on innovations in the U.S. educational system, which have been achieved through the employment of modern technologies and concepts.

He added that the programme includes field visits to various sites, and meetings with school principals, teachers, students and parents.

Participants will also meet with federal education officials, participate in a seminar Boston on the training of secondary school teachers, and the role of universities and other educational institutions in this process. They will also have the chance to acquire information on issues related to human resources training, including in-service training of teachers, methods of evaluation and the effect ethnic diversity might have on the educational process in the classroom.

Taking part in the programme are representatives of 13 countries, including Jordan.

17

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Sales tax to affect previously tax-free items

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior U.N. official has apologised to Palestinian colleagues over comments seen as insulting Yasser Arafat during a routine meeting in Amman, but the issue does not seem to have been settled despite U.N. assertions that the matter was closed.

Angela Williams, director of relief and social services of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), sent the "apology" to the area staff union of the agency in Amman after a formal complaint was sent to the UNRWA headquarters in Vienna.

The comments which triggered the controversy were made by Mrs. Williams on the appearance of a fully-bearded cafeteria worker who served tea at an internal UNRWA meeting in Amman on Feb. 25.

The appearance of cafeteria workers "should not be disgusting with his beard as Yasser Arafat," Mrs. Williams said, according to the formal complaint, a copy of which was obtained by the Jordan Times.

"We, the Palestinian partici-

pants in the meeting, were very astonished to observe this aggressive and impolite behaviour from a director of relief and social services working for and with the Palestinian people," said the complaint, signed by Aziz Daoud, Mahmoud Saleh and Jebad Taber, three senior UNRWA officials in Amman.

"We felt that this was a big intended insult addressed to all Palestinian people in general and to us as participants in the meeting in particular," it said. "... Please note that such behaviour has been considered by us as an unjustified insult addressed to all Palestinians represented worldwide by President Arafat..."

The complaint, dated Feb. 28, 1993, sought to bring the issue to the attention of the commissioner-general of the U.N. agency, which offers services to Palestinian refugees, "for his kind discretion."

Emilio Pyrich, chief public information officer of UNRWA in Vienna, said Mrs. Williams had apologised for her comments.

"There was a complaint by some members of the staff," Mr. Pyrich told the Jordan Times over the phone. "Mrs. Williams has

apologised in a letter (that) at the meeting she made a mistake."

"Our view is that the apology

has removed the misunderstanding," he added, without elaboration.

According to UNRWA sources in Amman, Mrs. Williams' letter expressed "regret" over her comments, which were "not intended at insulting anyone."

Mrs. Williams said she was "saddened and shocked" that she had "unwittingly offended" the "sensitive feelings and perceptions" of those present during the meeting.

She said she had made the comments in the context of discussing the "image" and "visual perceptions" of UNRWA.

"Her behaviour is very condescending," said an UNRWA employee, who declined to be identified. "In her dealings with her Middle Eastern colleagues, she appears to be always indirectly reminding us — Palestinians and others — that we should be thankful that the Europeans, particularly the British, were the donors and we are the recipients of help."

No comment was available from Mrs. Williams on this contention.

Angela Williams, who has an excellent record of devotion to her work," he told the Jordan Times. "What matters to us is that such offending comments came from a person who occupies a very senior position in the agency."

Mr. Daoud declined further comment saying he was "bound by any decision that the staff union would adopt."

UNRWA insiders said that while the performance record of Mrs. Williams, a British national who has been with the agency for over 20 years, had no blemish whatsoever, many agency officials were offended in the past by her "patronising approach."

"Her behaviour is very condescending," said an UNRWA employee, who declined to be identified. "In her dealings with her Middle Eastern colleagues, she appears to be always indirectly reminding us — Palestinians and others — that we should be thankful that the Europeans, particularly the British, were the donors and we are the recipients of help."

No comment was available from Mrs. Williams on this contention.

Minister, media chief attend film production meeting in France

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Friday left for Paris to take part in a symposium on production of cinema, radio, and television programmes in the Arab World.

The symposium, to start in the French capital today (Saturday), will also review prospects of cooperation between Europe and the Arab World in producing

programmes and films. Taking part in the symposium will be several Arab information ministers and senior French journalists.

Director of the Jordanian Company for Radio, Television and Cinema Jawad Maraqqa also left for Paris Friday to take part in the symposium, organised by the Paris-based Arab World Institute for Cinema, Radio and T.V. production.

The symposium will discuss three major topics: policies on audio-visual programmes in the Arab World, Arab audio-visual programmes in the West and prospects of cooperation between the Arab World and Europe, particularly France.

JNRCS head attends meetings in Geneva

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) is participating in the meetings of the higher committee entrusted with studying the future of the international movements of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which began in Geneva Wednesday. At the 5-day meeting the committee will discuss several issues including external factors that affect the future of the movement and preparations for an international conference to be held by philanthropic societies and signatories of the Geneva Conventions. The conference was scheduled to be held last year in Budapest, but was postponed until further notice because of pressures exerted by the U.S. and Israel to prevent Palestine's delegation from participating in the conference. JNRCS President Mohammad Al Hadid is representing Jordan at the Geneva conference.

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JD20m slated for new Irbid water line projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Irbid Water Management Department has floated three tenders worth JD 20 million to finance water projects in the governorate, according to department Director Ali Al Qudah.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Qudah said the new projects will improve, modernise and expand existing water networks and avoid water waste.

He said the Irbid water project accounts for JD 9.9 million, and will serve about 185,000 people living in the town.

The third project will be implemented in North Shouneh at a cost of JD 570,000. Mr. Qudah added that more projects are planned for this year to benefit more towns and villages in the governorate.

The project aims to improve

the water situation in the town, northern Jordan Valley area and Ajloun district.

On Qasme Springs water project, costing JD 1.7 million, will benefit residents Rajeb and the neighbouring villages.

Mr. Qudah said galvanised polyethylene pipes will be used in all the projects because of their durability.

Commenting on citizens' complaints that water bills are exaggerated and that figures appearing on the bills are not realistic, Mr. Qudah said the Water Authority has recently conducted maintenance work on the water lines and replaced part of the old network, which will result in minimum water waste and less complaints about bills.

He admitted to metre-reading errors on the part of the Water Authority staff.

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY MARCH 13, 1993

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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Britain's opening more

BRITAIN'S DECISION to resume ministerial-level contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation could be a harbinger of more positive developments on the road to full integration of the PLO into the peace process. The British move follows on the heels of the Belgian decision to upgrade the diplomatic status of the PLO office in Brussels into a fully-recognised diplomatic mission. There is little doubt that the British and Belgian moves have the blessing of the rest of the European Community nations and enjoys the tacit approval of Washington as well. This Western "rehabilitation" of the PLO must also be seen in the wider context of the ongoing peace negotiations between Israel and the various Arab parties and the simmering conflict between the mainstream PLO and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. While Fatah and Hamas are not exactly at loggerheads over the Palestinian-expellees crisis, they seem too diametrically opposed to each other on the viability of the entire peace process in the Middle East. The Western capitals' collective recognition of the PLO as a full partner in the quest for peace in the area is a vote of confidence in the Palestinian factions that made a clear commitment in favour of the peace option. Washington will certainly follow the European initiative by extending its support more openly to the forces of peace. This the U.S. can do by resuming its interrupted dialogue with the PLO in the near future. More important and relevant than this belated Western tilt towards the PLO is the Israeli final posture on the subject. Notwithstanding Israeli officials professed anxiety over the moves by London and Brussels to bestow recognition on the PLO as an integral element in the peace equation, there are sound reasons to believe that this protestation may not be Israel's bottom line on the issue. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has effectively set the stage for an early Israeli decision to accept dealing with the Palestinian leadership when he engineered the repeal of a 1986 law that forbade contact with the PLO. The Israeli Labour-led government must recognise that shunning the PLO for much longer would only make open the field wider for Palestinian rejectionist of the peace talks. The faster the decision to accepting the PLO as the Palestinian "government" that is totally and unequivocally committed to the cause of peace the sooner real progress in the peace process will be achieved. Pretending otherwise would be playing into the hands of the elements that are waging war against peace in the area on both sides of the divide.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said the continuation of the sanctions on Iraq is not caused by its violations of any U.N. Security Council Resolutions, but by Western countries' envy of Iraq's swiftness and ability to reconstruct what was destroyed by the allied forces during the Gulf war. Dimitri Perricos, head of the nuclear team of experts inspecting Iraq's nuclear capabilities, was quoted in Al Ra'i's editorial as saying that Iraq's reconstruction capabilities shows the need for having nuclear inspection teams in Iraq on the long run. "Thus, it is clearly demonstrated that the continuation of the siege and the inspection campaigns in Iraq are not prompted by violations it is committing or weapons it is concealing, but rather due to its ability of reconstruct quickly, as if it was supposed to stand unable to repair war damages and to beg for others' help to build its infrastructure once again," newspaper said.

It described Mr. Perricos' mentality in dealing with Iraq as racial, saying he wants Iraq to be a backward country. This king of mentality seeks to achieve that objective in daylight through the sieges, inspection campaigns and threats, it added. Had the Arabs thought of this well, the paper said, they would have realised that this aggressive mentality targets them all, and that the enemies of progress do not want for any Arab to build his homeland through science and serious work. These enemies, the paper added, want the Arabs to be greedy consumers who eat and wear what they import from others. The paper continued that the enemies of progress are practicing their tyranny on Iraq while the Arabs are watching as if they are not being stabbed with the same dagger. It is time for the Arabs to rise up and reach out to each other to protect themselves from the enemies of progress so as to be able to reconstruct the Arab order and make of themselves a technological, economic and scientific power, the paper concluded.

Al Dustour Arabic daily said in an editorial that the Arab parties to the Middle East peace talks have shown some degree of unity by postponing a decision on participating in the ninth round of the peace talks till after the Arab parties meet. The Arab decision was satisfactorily harmonious despite the rejection by the Palestinian side to accept the invitation sent by the co-sponsors of the peace talks, the U.S. and Russia, the paper said. Al Dustour said postponing decision on the issues has prevented the occurrence of a significant collapse in the fragile ground on which the Arab parties to the negotiations are standing and prevented a political crack which was a covert target of Israel since the start of the peace process in Madrid in October 1991. The newspaper expressed hope that the Arabs will utilise all their power and good relations with the co-sponsors of the peace talks to practice the necessary pressures to remove the obstacle impeding the resumption of the peace talks, represented Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories last December. Consequently, the newspaper concluded, the 40-day period separating the Arabs from scheduled date for the talks constitutes a practical test for the proficiency of Arab diplomacy and its ability to improve the terms of negotiations.

By Steve Holland
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States may be taking a more aggressive stance against Serb advances in Bosnia but remains cool to the kind of military intervention. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has in mind.

For the past year, through the end of the Bush administration and the start of the Clinton presidency, U.S. officials and commentators of all sides have warned that a "quagmire" like the Vietnam war may lie in store if U.S. troops are ordered into action in Bosnia.

Defense Secretary Les Aspin says this fear permeates not just the Pentagon but exists "throughout the U.S. government, throughout the population of the United States."

Dr. Boutros Ghali thus touched a nerve when he said U.N. member states, including the United States, must be ready to send troops against Bosnian Serb forces if they refuse to cede territory that they would have to give up under an international peace plan now being negotiated.

While Mr. Aspin did not rule out U.S. participation in such a force, White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos indicated the United States wants a more traditional peacekeeping role.

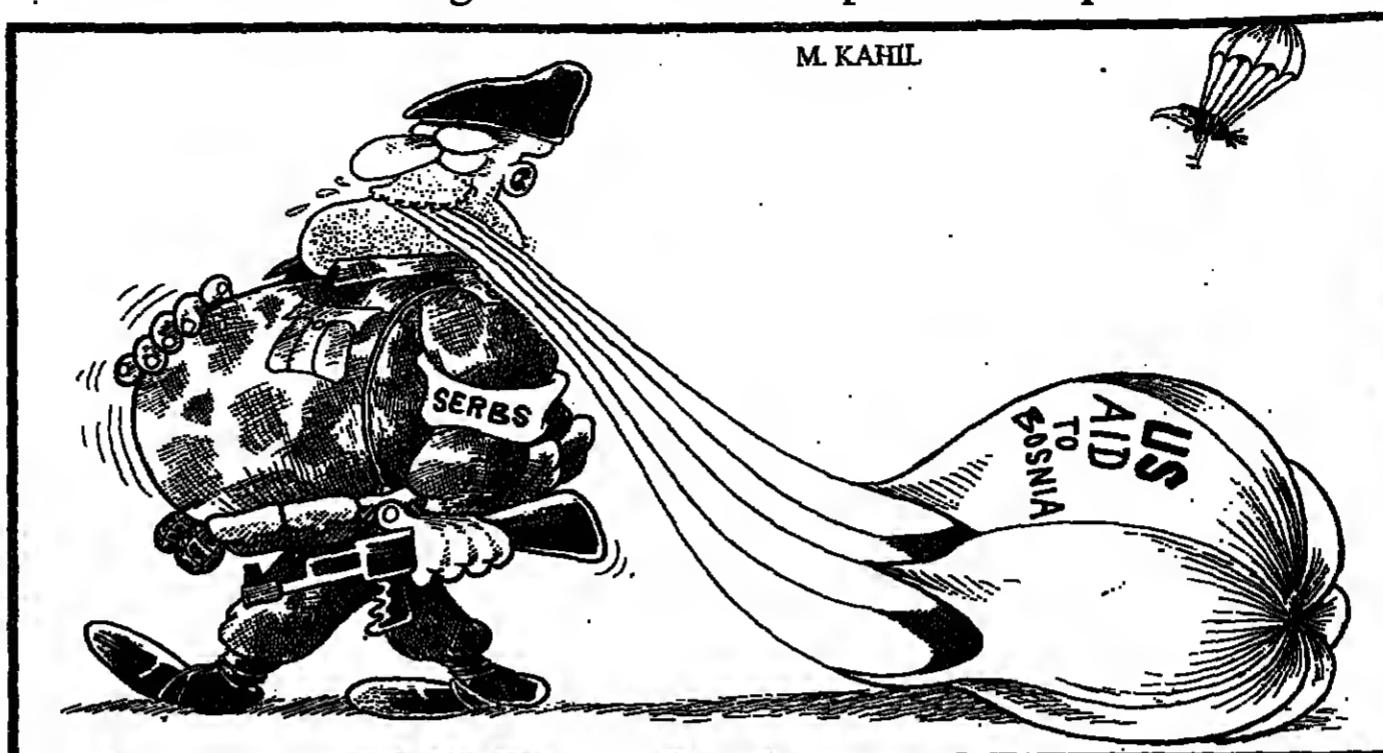
"We've had no discussions at all of anything beyond what we've said in the past, which is

that we would contemplate the use of U.S. forces to enforce an agreement that is already made," Mr. Stephanopoulos said. "We are not going to get involved. We've had no discussions on using U.S. troops in any kind of peacekeeping mission."

To coincide with its mercy mission of parachuting food and medicine to all sides in Bosnia — but mainly to Muslims

A cool reception

U.S. unwelcoming to Boutros-Ghali plea on troops in Bosnia



M. KAHL

trapped in Serb sieges — the United States has been looking for ways to increase pressure on the Serbs to comply with U.N. sanctions. It particularly favours blocking arms shipments into and out of Serbia.

Mr. Stephanopoulos said U.S. teams in recent days had productive discussions with Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Croatia, Albania and Macedonia.

rain in the former Yugoslavia and the complicated ethnic hatreds there would make a U.S. military mission too risky.

But sanctions have not stopped the Serb drive so far. During his presidency, George Bush tried sanctions against Iraq and ultimately resorted to military force.

The conventional wisdom has been that the mountainous ter-

By Richard Nixon

NEW YORK — Those who would disagree, as I do, with some of the specific proposals in President Bill Clinton's economic programme must give him credit for his boldness and political courage in advocating them and for his indefatigable efforts to sell them to the people.

If he demonstrates the same leadership qualities in addressing the major foreign policy issue of our time, he can secure a place in history as a great president. That issue is the survival and success of political and economic freedom in Russia.

That is not to say that the Middle East, Iraq and Bosnia are not also important, or that the nations of Eastern Europe and the other former Soviet states do not also deserve priority attention where they have democratically elected governments and have initiated serious economic reform.

But what happens in Russia will have an enormous effect on those nations, on America's allies and on the United States.

Without a substantial increase in aid from the West, the Yeltsin government will not survive. The United States must lead in providing it.

It is a very tough sell for the president. The latest Gallup poll showed that only 4 per cent of American voters considered foreign policy to be an important issue.

But foreign and domestic policy are like Siamese twins — one cannot survive without the other.

If Boris Yeltsin's democratic government collapses and is replaced by an aggressive, hardline nationalist government, this will have a far greater impact on the U.S. economy than all the Clinton domestic programmes. The peace dividend will be down the tubes. The military budget will have to be increased by billions, not cut. The president's plan to reduce the deficit would have to be withdrawn.

The Russian democracy is undergoing a deadly crisis. The negative factors are frightening. Russia has 31 republics and provinces that have declared their sovereignty, and 132 nationalities.

Before the peaceful revolution of December 1991, the Russian people had never known political or economic freedom. What works in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary will not work in Russia.

Russia is going through an economic downturn worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s in the United States.

In 1992, inflation was 25 per cent a month, the gross national product was down 20 per cent and

Russian democracy

A crisis with frightening potential



Boris Yeltsin
living standards were down 50 per cent.

Separatist tendencies and nationalistic conflicts that had been cooled by the Cold War are getting hot again, ranging from

bloody war in the Transcaucasus and Central Asia to confrontation over minority rights in the Balkans.

Most important, as experts such as James Billington and Gerald Corrigan have noted, the caricature that Russian workers are not responding to economic incentives is false.

In a meeting in St. Petersburg recently, private entrepreneurs unanimously agreed that, when given the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a free society, Russian workers are among the best in the world.

They are also among the best educated: Ninety per cent have graduated from high school, a higher percentage than in the United States.

Can Boris Yeltsin survive? Some Western leaders I talked to question it. Some of his opponents in Russia doubt it. Most shocking, the State Department officer who until last month was in charge of aid to Russia publicly predicted he would not last. With friends like that, Mr. Yeltsin needs no enemies.

The former U.S. president, who recently visited Moscow, contributed this comment to The New York Times. It is reprinted here from The International Herald Tribune.

New world order

'How much courage is needed to be a coward?'

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The new world order has arrived. It is well and truly new, consecrating invasion, aggression and ethnic purge as acceptable international conduct (acceptable, since it is accepted by the democracies, ratified in the Vance-Owen plan for Yugoslavia).

The principal agency of international action, the United Nations Security Council, pursues peace in Yugoslavia by demanding that the victim of aggression, the non-ethnic Bosnian government, halt its resistance to what is being done to its people.

"How much courage is needed to be a coward" is the undersecretary of the British Foreign Office, Sir Alexander Cadogan, wrote in his diary in September 1938, when Britain and France served their ultimatum on Czechoslovakia's president, Eduard Benes, demanding that he yield to Hitler's demands.

They at least had a rationale. The appeasers had a case to make, which Western leaders do not have today. The French and British governments in 1938 believed the Czech arrogance had invited difficulties with Germany.

They believed that Hitler's claims on the German-populated Sudeten region of Czechoslovakia had some justification. They saw Hitler as an aggressive nationalist, but certainly not as a figure of megalomaniac and genocidal ambition.

They believed their own countries were weaker than a rearming Germany. People then were close to World War I. The British

ambassador to Germany, Sir Neville Henderson, sent a memo to the Foreign Office in May 1938: "Surely our right course is to be prepared to submit, provided we secure peace in the West, without too great discomfort to the surge and swell of restless pan-Germanism in Central and Eastern Europe... What other practical course is open to us if we are to avoid the insane fanatical folly of setting our course for another war?"

The West then believed that Hitler's ambitions wholly in the East. Mr. Henderson's memo went on to say that "a certain German predominance eastward is inevitable, and peace in the West must not be sacrificed to a theoretically laudable but practically mistaken idealism in the East... The German is certainly more civilized than the Slav... One might even go so far as to assert that it is not even just to endeavour to prevent Germany from completing her unity or from being prepared for war against the Slav, provided her preparations are such as to reassure the British Empire, that they are not simultaneously designed against us."

As in 1938, there is a real risk that the present war will spread, but the way this is likely to come is as a consequence of Serbian victory and subsequent efforts to purify Serbia itself of its Albanian and Hungarian minorities. Indifference to aggression invites new aggressions.

The threat to the West is not that it might be drawn into an ill-prepared war with a great power, but that by tolerating and rewarding aggression, much of southeastern Europe will be drawn into disorder and war, with demoralising and divisive effect upon the democracies — and a potentially most dangerous influence inside the ex-Soviet Union.

The sole case for appeasement today, so far as I understand the situation, is that Western leaders fear the political consequences in their own countries of military involvement in Yugoslavia. The West did nothing effective a year and a half ago, however, when

economic and political measures might have halted the crisis, and now West European and other U.N. forces have become deeply and dangerously involved on the ground in Yugoslavia precisely because of their governments' evasion of their international responsibilities.

There has until now been some question as to the attitude that would be taken by the Clinton administration. The past few days have removed that doubt, confirming that the policy of Mr. Clinton will also be that of ostentatious measures of humanitarian assistance — impartially distributed between Serb aggressors and besieged Bosnians — with support for the Vance-Owen plan.

The airdrops made by the U.S. Air Force these last few days have cruelly demonstrated the limit to what the United States is prepared to do: eight airdrops from 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) in mountainous country — with the particularly nice touch of including pork meals for starving Muslims.

This is fundamentally faithful to the established Western policy in dealing with this crisis, which is to appease, simultaneously, Western public opinion and aggression itself. It is an implausible programme, but one that thus far has been a success. The final step, already announced, will be the injection of U.S. troops to enforce the Vance-Owen plan, once that is signed. And who will have any reason to resist? Only the victims.

International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

Effort not in vain

To the Editor:

AS PART of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's (ADC) Amman Regional office's efforts to get the U.S. government to pressure Israel to abide by U.N. Resolution 799 and Geneva Conventions, several thousand postcards were sent to American officials by Arabs, Arab-Americans and American citizens.

It was our hope that these postcards would help mobilise American officials and public to finally stand up and speak out against the illegal acts of Israel.

Many sceptics feel that our committee's activities are useless. I feel that it is important that such individuals learn that our means possible to bring a just solution to the Arab-Israeli problem.

I would like to share with these sceptics a letter I received from a brave American citizen who knows that when there is a will there is a way, and who thinks that every human being who truly believes in a principle must bear the burden of fighting for the preservation of that principle. The letter reads as follows:

"What a pleasant surprise to get a letter from you and to find and justice in 'your' Middle East!

"I am ahead of you... I have been knocking myself out speaking and writing about the horrible conditions in the Arab World, and you are both my own country and the Israelis. I am glad to join you about this and I will have to say that it is an uphill battle.

"The powerful Israeli lobby has most congresspersons completely gone into their states and caused defeat for some. However, we must continue to 'educate' them about Israel that the lobby has given to congresspersons and I certainly want that stopped!"

"You know that I, personally, am totally pro-Arab and I guarantee my continued fight.

"I will, indeed send those very poignant cards to one and all but 'Colonel,' U.S. Marine Corps, Retired and President of the Association of National Security Alumni I hope that some of the recipients actually read them!"

(Colonel, Phil Roettiger)

Dr. Aida Dabbas
Amman.

Arab coordination talks on March 28

(Continued from page 1)

Syria, which had been lukewarm to the idea of Damascus hosting an Arab meeting on the expulsions, appeared to shift its stand when it said in late January that it would convene an Arab coordination meeting on how to relaunch the peace process.

The announcement, which followed a meeting in Geneva between Mr. Sharraa and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said the objective of the Arab talks was to enable all Arab parties to resume the peace talks "in a comfortable and agreeable atmosphere."

Mr. Kaddoumi arrived here from Damascus Friday after talks with Mr. Sharraa on the peace process and Syrian-Palestinian political relations.

Dr. Abu Jaber said he was scheduled to meet with the PLO official Saturday. Discussions with center on the peace process and other issues that are directly related to Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

In public comments, PLO officials and Palestinian delegates to the talks are insisting on the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which calls on Israel to allow the return of the expellees. But they are also involved in behind-the-scenes efforts to get Israel to agree to an American-brokered six-point proposal which envisages a phased return of the exiles (see separate story).

Jordan has said that while it remains fully committed to the peace process, it would be difficult for it to attend the peace talks if the Palestinians stayed away.

In a recent interview with American television, His Majesty King Hussein noted that it was under a Jordanian umbrella that the Palestinians were participating in the peace talks and as such

Returnees report torture in Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

were denied essential medicines although they had kidney problems or suffered from heart diseases or diabetes.

"As a result, many people's health, which was kept in reasonable condition through drugs, permanently degenerated," Dr. Ghazi says.

Their physical problems render many of the tortured returnees less capable than others of finding work.

"A lack of physical stamina as well as depression keeps the morale low and kills the initiative to find work," Dr. Ghazi said.

Some 6,000 cases of "violation of honour" were reported to officials through the government survey, conducted by the Department of Statistics. Only 650 have applied for compensation through the Geneva-based United Nations compensation commission.

The 650 cases include cases of deaths of family members, officials at the returnee cooperative say.

Feelings of shame, fear and a desire to turn a new leaf are believed to be the main reasons for the low number — 10 per cent — of all those who were exposed to bodily harm in the post-war period in Kuwait asking for reparations.

Depending on the case under Form B of the U.N. Compensation Commission, a person exposed to bodily harm or the death of a close relative can claim from

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

PLO, Hamas discuss future of Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

there was little sense in "half a delegation."

The Jordanian approach to the expellee crisis is from the vantage point that Israeli expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories is part of the broader conflict.

"The entire Palestinian nation is in exile," said a senior official. "We cannot lose sight of the reality that the peace process is at resolving the root conflict."

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kaddoumi said Jordan's position vis-a-vis the peace process reflected the Kingdom's "keen interest in bringing the peace efforts to a successful end in a way that ensures that the Palestinians will regain their legitimate political rights."

"We fully agree with His Majesty's position that we (Jordanians and Palestinians) are a joint delegation and we have a common cause," he said. "Any harm to this cause through Israeli practices in the occupied territories is directed against the peace process and placing obstacles in its path."

The Jordanian stand expressed by King Hussein is designed to urge the U.S. and Russia to exert all efforts to prevent Israel from its repressive measures in the occupied territories and the work towards the immediate return of all expellees in accordance with Resolution 799," he said.

On prospects for the resumption of peace talks on April 20, Mr. Kaddoumi said: "When the Palestinian delegation met with Mr. Christopher in Jerusalem (during his recent Middle East visit), a six-point memo was presented to him in the name of the Palestinian people. It included the Palestinian conditions for the resumption of the peace talks and on which any just peace settlement should be based."

Returnees report torture in Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

\$2,500 to \$30,000 in compensation.

According to the Ministry of Labour, which is processing all the reparation claims from Jordanian returnees to the Geneva commission, some \$5 million worth of reparation claims have been made by the 650 people. Thus the average claimed is for \$7,690.

"The money is really not very significant for one who has permanently lost good health or for a woman who was raped," said Awni Owais, who spent several months in a Kuwaiti prison and was badly tortured with cigarette burns and steel batons at the end of the Gulf war.

"If there is a withdrawal from Gaza outside the framework of an overall Palestinian-Israeli

agreement then we will be cantonising Palestinian lands similar to the way the proposal for Bosnian Muslim lands is a form of cantonisation," said a veteran Palestinian analyst in Jordan.

"The withdrawal from Gaza, which I suspect will occur, can leave a power vacuum if the PLO does not move in lock, stock and barrel in an organised and efficient manner," said the analyst.

Declaring a Palestinian state, which PLO officials insist will not occur in Gaza but "in Jerusalem," would effectively negate the possibility of declaring a state in the West Bank or East Jerusalem, Palestinian analysts say.

Whether by announcing the discussion of the talks Hamas wants to emphasise its growing role in Palestinian politics or divert attention from other issues is not clear, PLO officials say.

"Instead of concentrating on

the expellees or studying the six-point plan of the Americans, they are discussing proposals which are not yet on the table," Mr. Nofal said.

But Hamas appears to moving forward with its public relations campaign both in Europe and in the Arab World.

After announcing that they had met Chinese and Spanish diplomats last week, Hamas issued an official statement Friday thanking a senior Saudi Arabian clergyman for his support of Palestinian causes.

Addressing the statement to Abdul Aziz Ben Baz, a senior Saudi cleric who has government backing, Hamas thanked the sheikh for his statements of support.

While the supposed statement by Sheikh Beo Baz was not available to the Jordan Times, the Hamas statement claimed that he had urged all "Muslims to support Palestinians by financing both arms and men to their disposal."

The cleric had apparently called on all Arab governments to take a united stand on the issue of expellees and had pledged his support.

"We will extend our support and our money to the Palestinians," the Hamas statement quoted Sheikh Ben Baz as saying.

No mention was apparently made in the statement about the PLO. The cleric is thought to have been giving "mixed" signals to the Palestinians, Palestinian analysts say.

Palestinian analysts in Amman fear that an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza would ignite a power struggle between the PLO and Hamas in the poor and overpopulated strip and that the declaration of a Palestinian state in Gaza would occur.

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Palestinians see American pressure

(Continued from page 1)

Jersey firm. One of his brothers, Rezq, is also working; the other two, Abdul Hamid and Khalil, are still in school.

Nidal visited Jordan for the first time in April 1992 to get engaged to a girl from the Gabouni family, from the Majdal Askalan village in the occupied Gaza Strip, who was chosen by her mother.

He passed Tawjihi from the Hawi High School in Kuwait City in 1985 with an average of 75 per cent marks.

Nidal and his siblings grew up in Kuwait under the care of their mother Fatima, their maternal grandfather, who was a preacher in a mosque in Kuwait, and their maternal uncle, Khalil Abdul Aziz Ayyad.

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Navratilova to get Offcourt Achievement Award

NEW YORK (AP) — Martina Navratilova, currently ranked No. 5 in the world in women's tennis, has been named the "Player Who Makes a Difference" for her offcourt achievements. The "Player Who Makes a Difference" award was created last year by Family Circle Magazine to honour the efforts of the women's tennis association member who made the most outstanding contributions of time and energy to worthy causes. The winner of 162 tournament titles, the most of any player, man or woman, Navratilova is involved in Make A Wish Foundation for terminally ill children, is active with In God We Trust, an AIDS charity where she donated all her winnings from the 1991 Virginia Slims championship victory; the Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation and Response, a center for battered women in Aspen.

FIFA orders Egypt to replay match

SYDNEY (R) — The International Football Federation (FIFA) ordered Egypt Friday to replay its World Cup match against Zimbabwe after the southern Africans had protested over stone-throwing by the 120,000 crowd. The African Group C Match, played in Cairo February 28, ended in a 2-1 victory for Egypt and had put them into the second round of the African qualifying pool with a better goal difference. But Zimbabwe and Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar spent a night in hospital suffering from concussion after being struck on the head by a lump of concrete during the match. World soccer's governing body, responding to a formal complaint from the Zimbabwe Football Federation, said the game was not played under normal sporting conditions.

Prost posts top qualifying time

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna, longtime rivals who both have something to prove this year, posted the top qualifying times Friday for the South African Grand Prix, the opening race on the 1993 Formula One circuit. Prost, who sat out last season after being fired by Ferrari in 1991, didn't appear the least bit rusty as he clocked the day's quickest lap of 1 minute, 16.004 seconds in his Williams Renault on the 4.26 kilometre (2.64 mile) Kyalami Track just north of Johannesburg. Senna, who won the 1991 Formula One title but finished a disappointing fourth last year, was close on Prost's heels (1:17.152) in his new McLaren MP 4 0.

Olympiakos beat Limoges in Eurobasketball

LONDON (R) — Olympiakos, forced to play away from their home stadium, beat France's Limoges 70-67 Thursday as the men's European Clubs' Basketball Championship reached the quarter-final stage. The match took place in the Greek port town of Patras. Olympiakos were banned earlier this year from playing at home in Piraeus after a referee was hit by a coin thrown from the crowd. Montenegrin Zarko Paspalje topped score with 27 points and won the first leg tie for the Greeks with a three-point basket four seconds from time.

IAAF spends \$500,000 on drug testing

TORONTO (R) — International Amateur Athletic Federation President Primo Nebiolo says his organisation is leading the fight to combat drug use in the sport but admitted only one per cent of its budget is spent on random drug testing. At a news conference Thursday on the eve of the World Indoor Championships, Nebiolo chided other international sports bodies for their doping programmes and then revealed that the IAAF allocates about \$500,000 of its 40 million budget for random testing. Canada alone spent nearly half a million dollars itself on doping controls in amateur sport last year.

IOC concerned about Atlanta construction schedule

ATLANTA (R) — Olympic bosses gathering in Atlanta this weekend will urge 1996 games organisers to guard against any further slippage in their construction timetable. A potential confrontation between the Atlanta organisers (ACOG) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was averted Wednesday when the planned \$207 million showpiece stadium received belated approval. Had the local authorities carried out a threat to veto the proposal, ACOG had intended to build a temporary stadium which would have been torn down after the games.

ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY Jordan University of Science & Technology Tender No. (14/93)

Jordan University of Science and Technology has pleasure in inviting local consultants and international consultants in joint-venture with local consultants who had submitted their documents to prequalify for the consulting and supervision of the construction of the King Abdullah Hospital Project to obtain the tender documents from the secretary of the Central Tendering Committee during working days (Saturday-Wednesday) starting Sunday 14th March 1993 till Wednesday 7th April 1993 at a non-refundable fee of JD 100 (One hundred Jordanian Dinars). Submission of the tenders should be in accordance with the following conditions:

- 1 Tender proposals should be submitted by hand to the Chairman of the Central Tendering Committee not later than 12:00 noon, Monday 12th of April 1993
- 2 Each tender shall be accompanied by tender bond in favour of the Jordan University of Science and Technology drawn from or approved by an accredited bank in Jordan in an amount not less than two per cent (2%) of the total tender sum. Such bond shall remain valid for a period of not less than three months from the closing date of the tender submission.
- 3 Tender proposals not abiding by the above mentioned conditions and the conditions mentioned in the tender documents will not be considered.

Secretary General
Chairman, Central Tendering Committee

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
© 1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

VIVE LE ROI!

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♦ K 7 2
♦ J 10 9
Q J 10 8 3
+ A 10 6
WEST EAST
♦ 9 4 ♦ A Q 6 5 3
8 6 4 3 ♦ 9 7 5 2
A 9 5 7
+ 7 5 3 2 + J 9 4
SOUTH
♦ J 10 8
A Q 10
K 6 4 2
♦ K Q 8
The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Nine of ♦
"Gentlemen:
I am an avid reader of your column. Through the years I have found your sage advice indispensable, and it has improved my game enormously. Now I have my doubts."
Perplexed!
Our correspondent is using advice selectively. On even more occasions we have instructed our readers not to follow bridge rebids blindly, but to use common sense.

First of all, declarer made a fine play by going up with the king of spades, stamping East to cover. Now let's apply some simple logic to the situation.
Declarer, who surely has the jack and ten of spades, is entitled to a trick in the suit. Unfortunately, you have no entry to the long spades if you take you — winners immediately. Therefore, you should simply encourage a spade continuation at trick one by following with the six. Now you are in position to break the contract whenever it can be defeated.

AC Milan face tough test following Italian Cup upset

MILAN (AP) — AC Milan, recovering from its first defeat in 11 months, will find out Sunday whether its seeming invincibility has truly ended or whether a loss to AS Roma was just an aberration.

Milan plays Lazio at Rome's Olympic Stadium, the same arena where it lost 2-0 to Roma in the Italian Cup semifinal first leg Wednesday night.

In other games Sunday, Parma is at Ancona, Juventus travels to Brescia, Sampdoria is at Cagliari, Fiorentina hosts Pescara, Foggia goes to Genoa, as Roma hopes to keep the momentum going in the closing seconds.

AS Milan pressed for the

equaliser, the Argentine forward was left unmarked and flashed from midfield into Milan's penalty area and foisted young keeper Carlo Cudicini with a lob. It was Caniggia's first goal in three months and spoiled the debut of 19-year-old Cudicini, son of AC Milan's 1960s goalkeeper Fabio Cudicini.

"We paid for our pride, for our attempts to tie the score," Capello said. "We presented Roma with a second goal which will make our task overly difficult in the return match."

Roma, which played without regular forwards Ruggiero Rizzitelli and Andrea Carnevale, produced one of its finest performances this season and helped to "beat" club president Giuseppe Ciarrapico.

The Roman industrialist, hospitalised since Sunday to undergo medical examination, got out of his bed and rushed to the stadium by taxi in his pajamas to congratulate the players.

The Italian media devoted frontpage headlines Thursday to the defeat of the so called "invincibles" and Lazio's president Sergio Cragnotti said that Roma's victory "proved that Milan can be beaten and this will certainly boost determination of Lazio players Sunday."

Milan still enters Sunday's 23rd round with an 11 point lead over Internazionale and a league unbeaten streak of 57 games.

Seeking its 13th league title and its fifth European Champions Cup, Milan will be without injured Dutchmen Marco Van Basten



Marco Van Basten

and Frank Rijkaard and Italian internationals Mauro Tassotti and Roberto Donadoni.

Sebastiano Rossi nursing a shoulder injury, is an uncertain starter to goal. Roud Gullit suffered a light strain Wednesday and may join the injury list, forcing Capello to start Papin, Bosan and Dejan Savicevic.

Lazio will miss suspended German striker Karl Heinz Riedle but will have English midfielder Paul Gascoigne, back after a one-round suspension. Gascoigne will team with Dutchman Aron Winter and league leading scorer Giuseppe Signori, who has 19 goals.

The test for Milan will be to overcome a team which is in fourth place with a 9-7-2 record and 5-4-2 at home.

Juventus and its crosstown rival Torino, which played to a 1-1 draw in another Italian Cup semi-final Tuesday night, take on Brescia and Atalanta Sunday.

Lazio's Paul Gascoigne

World Youth Soccer Championship Brazil, Ghana clinch quarterfinal spots

SYDNEY (AP) — Brazil and Ghana sizzled, England and Mexico struggled, but all four won games Thursday night to advance to the quarterfinals of soccer's World Youth Championships.

They joined host nation Australia, Russia, Uruguay and the United States in the last eight of the 16 nation tournament.

The two-time champions from Brazil outplayed Norway 2-0, finishing on top of Group D ahead of Mexico, which rallied to defeat Saudi Arabia 2-1.

African champion Ghana crushed defending titlist Portugal 2-0 and finished second in Group B behind Uruguay, which beat Germany 2-1.

England scrambled past Turkey 1-0, finishing unbeaten on top of Group C while the United States' 2-2 draw against South Korea was enough for it to progress.

Russia downed Colombia 3-1 to leapfrog ahead of Australia in Group A after the host nation went down 2-0 to previously winless Cameroon.

The quarterfinals will pit Russia against Ghana in Sydney and Uruguay against Australia in Brisbane Saturday. Brazil will face the United States in Adelaide Sunday, while England plays Mexico in Melbourne.

The Brazilians will be favoured against the United States, which lived dangerously against the speedy South Koreans and trailed 1-2 until Keirian Zavagnin scored the equalizer with a fierce shot with only 12 minutes remaining.

Russia's rugged 3-1 victory over Colombia left it and England as the only European survivors.

African champion Ghana was superb against Portugal which lost all three of its matches in a tournament it was bidding to win for the third straight time.

Seles forced out of Lipton Tournament

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — World number one Monica Seles of Yugoslavia has withdrawn from the \$2.3 million Lipton Tennis Championships which started Friday.

Tournament officials Thursday said Seles is still suffering from a flu virus she contracted three weeks ago in Paris and does not feel well enough to play.

The original women's draw included second seed Steffi Graf of Germany, third seed Arantxa Sanchez of Spain, number four Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, fifth seed Jennifer Capriati of the

United States and number six Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States.

World number one Jim Courier of the United States is the top seed among the men. Courier is seeking his fourth title of the year and his second in a row.

He wooed the Newsweek Championship at Indian Wells, California, last week to run his 1993 record to 17-1.

The men's draw includes second seed Pete Sampras of the United States, third seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden, number four Boris Becker of Germany, fifth seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic, sixth seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, number seven Michael Chang of the United States and eighth seed Andre Agassi of the United States.

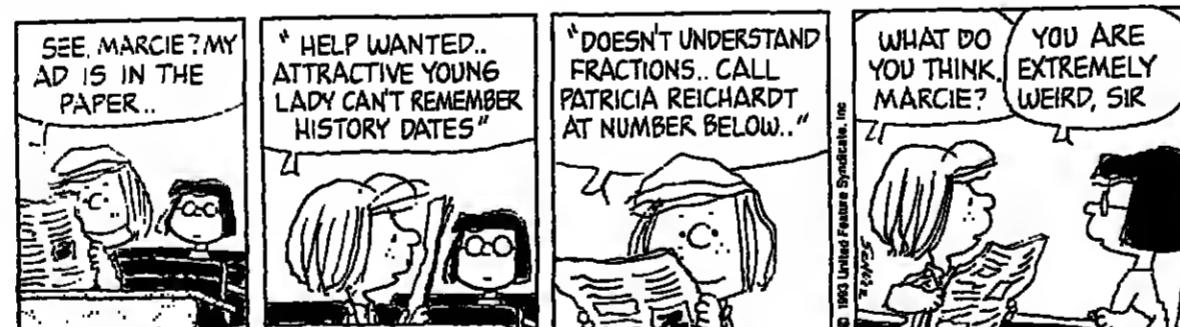
Hall of Famer Tracy Austin has entered as a wild card after her comeback success at Indian Wells two weeks ago and has drawn a rematch with Stephanie Rottier of Belgium in the first round.

The 19-year-old Rottier trounced the two-time U.S. Open champion in the third round last month in the 30-year-old's first tournament in four years.



Monica Seles

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 13, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Making collections, paying your bills and improving relations with others works out just as well as you had expected, especially if promises made have been kept to the letter. Relations improve.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you stick to accepted and methods and do not attempt to make any drastic changes, you can turn some potential disadvantages to your benefit.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Look for some means by which to quietly arrange all of your affairs on a new and improved plane and don't look to be blabbering person, tonight conditions improve.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Now you are able to get in hot water with one who has a chip on the shoulder unless you use much caution, but tonight conditions clear up somewhat.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21)

Be more careful when you are on the highway and especially of the recklessness of other persons while conditions at home can be quietly favourable.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 19)

You find that friends and acquaintances can be very disappointing in aiding your progress during the day but tonight they are more helpful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Forget your own personal desires and put your energies and attention on increasing the goodies that appeal to you in your everyday living.

associate without jumping into the fire and tonight you can do what pleases your loved one.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

An associate in the work can help you with a problem involving the usual duties that take your time but be very careful not to stir up the fire of a fellow associate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22)

Those who are concerned with your pleasure and entertainment can be difficult for you in making future arrangements today but conditions improve tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Matters at your residence can be very upsetting if you let them get at you today but you can be attending to interesting shopping appointments.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Now you are able to get in hot water with one who has a chip on the shoulder unless you use much caution, but tonight conditions clear up somewhat.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

Don't let one who likes to control conditions be aware of a plan you have in mind that is of a worldly or a public nature.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Your new ideas would be good if you take time to develop them instead of yielding to the wishes of another to aid that person with his/her programme.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)

Try to be more understanding of the actions of an annoying

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN



"I had a great dream last night! You won the Nobel Prize for kissing!"

JUMBLE

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY MARCH 13, 1993

Economy

Russian Congress battles for control of economy

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has stolen the headlines in a war of words in Moscow this week, but a second battle is also under way — the fight for economic reforms and control of a free-spending central bank.

Russia's economic reformers have used an extraordinary session of the Congress of People's Deputies as a forum to argue for increased powers over financial and monetary policy.

"The situation regarding the central bank is very difficult," Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fyodorov told a news conference Thursday.

"In no other country does a government have to struggle to get tight monetary policy from the central bank," he pointed out.

Volvo reports record 1992 loss

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish vehicle maker A.B. Volvo has announced a record loss for 1992, reflecting a continued weak market facing tough price competition.

The company also lowered its dividend for the first time.

"Volvo had pre-tax loss 3.31 billion crowns (\$430 million) compared with a 1.1 billion crown profit (\$144 million) in 1991."

"This is the lowest pre-tax result we have ever published," a Volvo official told Reuters.

Volvo also halved its dividend for 1992 to 7.75 crowns per share from 15.5 crowns in 1991. Volvo, started in the 1930s, had never before lowered its dividend.

"The market for most of Volvo's products continued to be weak," the company said in a statement. "Utilisation of capacity in the automotive industry was low, resulting in sharp price competition."

"Demand for both cars and trucks in the United States in-

creased toward the end of the year but the price competition did not ease," it said.

Volvo's sales rose to 83 billion crowns (\$11 billion) last year from 77.22 billion (\$10 billion).

The company said sales of the Volvo car group were higher — up five per cent — but sales for the other groups in the company were lower.

Sales at the Volvo truck division fell five per cent in 1992, two per cent at the marine engine division and 10 per cent at the aviation division.

In the fourth quarter, Volvo recorded an operating loss of 731 million crowns (\$95 million) which included foreign exchange losses of 630 million (\$84 million) as a result of Sweden's decision to let the crown float on Nov. 19, 1992.

"The floating of the Swedish crown resulted in charges against income in the fourth quarter, but will benefit Volvo over the long term," Volvo said in its results statement.

The reformers, charged with transforming Russia's socialist system to a Western-style market economy, say the central bank is fueling inflation by pumping out money and acceding to high spending demands from a conservative parliament.

But central bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko questions the link between money supply and inflation. He told Congress the Russian money supply rose 10.3 times in 1992, a rise in line with the rising incomes of the population.

"Deputies' proposals would increase the Russian budget by 100 per cent, money which can only be found from the air," Mr. Fyodorov said. "Of course kind uncle Gerashchenko will be only too ready to print it."

Mr. Gerashchenko said many credits had been issued at the request of the government. He blamed monopolist producers for charging excessive prices and driving inflation up.

How monetary policy should best be controlled was a side issue in the debate, with Mr. Yeltsin initially calling for the central bank to be put under government control.

He said the government had no plans to quit, despite battles raging in Congress. "It is necessary to continue to the last moment, despite attempts to push the government from the path it has taken," he said.

Government officials have complained they are being hamstrung in the debate between parliament and the president and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Thursday called for more independence for his government.

Realisation of economic reform by the government is not possible unless it is given effective means for managing the economy," he said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, an industrialist who took over from free-marketeer Yegor Gaidar in December, said financial stabilisation was the government's priority. But reforms would be pragmatic and take social factors into account.

Japanese economy grows at slowest pace in 18 years

TOKYO (R) — Japan's economy grew at its slowest pace in nearly two decades in 1992 in what is becoming a painfully onerous chapter in the nation's post-war history.

The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) announced Friday that gross national product (GNP)

rose a real 1.5 per cent in calendar 1992, the slowest this once-robust economy has grown since 1974.

"Japan will have a weak, even-disappointing slow recovery from this," said Paul Summerville, director of Asian Research at Lehman Brothers Jan. 1993.

"Many economists figure recovery here will not be seen until October 1993 and that the nation may turn in growth of less than two per cent in the next fiscal year and growth of only around three per cent in the year after that.

"Japan's clearing banks have spent £30 to £40 million (\$43 to \$57 million) on (the system)," it added.

The governor of the Bank of England set up a task force to report by June on an alternative.

"Nothing that has happened changes the strategic objective of providing the U.K. with efficient, low risk and internationally competitive securities settlement," said Pen Kent, who heads the central bank's task force on TAURUS.

The task force would consider all possibilities except one — TAURUS was unlikely to be revived, a Bank of England source said. It was also possible that the stock exchange would not finance or operate the new system.

Originally, TAURUS was sup-

posed to have started in May 1992, but it was delayed several times and was still in the testing stage.

Stock exchange officials had said it could not come into full effect until 1994 at the earliest. Stockbrokers and others in London's financial district had said they feared TAURUS would cost them more as development costs escalated.

"I think the reaction within the equity market will be one of relief," one market analyst said. "There were a lot of things wrong with it."

Difficulties which arose over how share-rights issues, stock conversions and open offers would be handled made the entire system unworkable, some said.

main task of government and central bank, said he would support the idea of an independent central bank.

He said the government had no plans to quit, despite battles raging in Congress. "It is necessary to continue to the last moment, despite attempts to push the government from the path it has taken," he said.

Government officials have complained they are being hamstrung in the debate between parliament and the president and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Thursday called for more independence for his government.

Realisation of economic reform by the government is not possible unless it is given effective means for managing the economy," he said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, an industrialist who took over from free-marketeer Yegor Gaidar in December, said financial stabilisation was the government's priority. But reforms would be pragmatic and take social factors into account.

London Stock Exchange drops computer project

LONDON (R) — The head of the London Stock Exchange resigned Thursday in an upheaval in which the securities market dumped its ambitious TAURUS electronic share-settlement project.

According to Mohammad Jamjoum, general manager of Jordan Kuwait Bank, the share flotation was part of a JD 3 million capital increase to JD 8.5 million. Fifty per cent of the raise was taken by previous shareholders in January.

The flotation of the 1.5 million shares attracted applications for 11,491,911 shares valued at JD 18,387,060 as each share cost JD 1,600, 600 fils of which were a premium,

Jordanians signal eagerness to invest

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Investment fever in Jordan has proved much higher than most expectations as the latest share flotation by Jordan Kuwait Bank has been oversubscribed 11 times.

According to Mohammad Jamjoum, general manager of Jordan Kuwait Bank, the share flotation was part of a JD 3 million capital increase to JD 8.5 million. Fifty per cent of the raise was taken by previous shareholders in January.

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Bank of International Settlements (BIS) guidelines, but he binned such a possibility was valid.

Many Jordanian banks have decided or are still considering raising their capital. Among these banks are the Jordan Islamic Bank, the Jordan Arab Investment Bank and the Bank of Jordan.

Mr. Jamjoum declined to be specific on the performance of Jordan Kuwait Bank last year because the Central Bank of Jordan was tightening its supervision on banks by requesting all yearly financial results be approved by first.

Mr. Jamjoum added, however, that it can be generally said that the bank improved its profit by 25 per cent over the 1991 figure.

Clinton outlines \$20 billion for defence conversion

ROME (R) — Italian industrialists are increasingly worried about whether the country's economy can withstand the continuing attrition of its top executives and the political fallout from an ever-widening corruption scandal.

Luigi Abete, president of the powerful Confindustria Employers' Association, issued a strong appeal Thursday for October elections under a revised electoral system as a way to stop the economy from grinding to a halt.

"The decision to scrap the project, although widely predicted in the media, was a major embarrassment to the stock exchange and meant an immediate substitute would be needed.

"London's credibility as an international securities market is at stake and an alternative system is needed urgently," the British Bankers' Association said in a statement.

"Britain's clearing banks have spent £30 to £40 million (\$43 to \$57 million) on (the system)," it added.

The governor of the Bank of England set up a task force to report by June on an alternative.

"Nothing that has happened changes the strategic objective of providing the U.K. with efficient, low risk and internationally competitive securities settlement," said Pen Kent, who heads the central bank's task force on TAURUS.

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"I think the reaction within the equity market will be one of relief," one market analyst said. "There were a lot of things wrong with it."

Difficulties which arose over how share-rights issues, stock conversions and open offers would be handled made the entire system unworkable, some said.

Analysts fear the political damage inflicted by the Milan-based probe into the illegal financing of political parties may have reduced the government's role to that of caretaker.

In particular, they say his government may lack the authority to take measures needed to deal with an overshooting state deficit, long Italy's economic bugbear.

Holding the line on the deficit is vital to calm financial market nerves and ensure Italy does not get left behind as Europe moves towards lower interest rates.

Interest rate cuts are crucial to stimulating the economy, which in Italy has been hurt by the paralyzing effect of the corruption scandals on public sector contracts.

But they are also the only way to reverse the process. I know today that the world's finest makers of swords can and will be the world's finest makers of ploughshares," Mr. Clinton said.

His conversion programme includes \$1.4 billion already approved by Congress and \$300 million more. Mr. Clinton has proposed spending for fiscal year 1993.

The administration plans to expand the programme to \$5.2 billion by 1997 for a total of \$20 billion over its four-year life.

The money will be spent to help train displaced defense workers and help communities prepare for base closings.

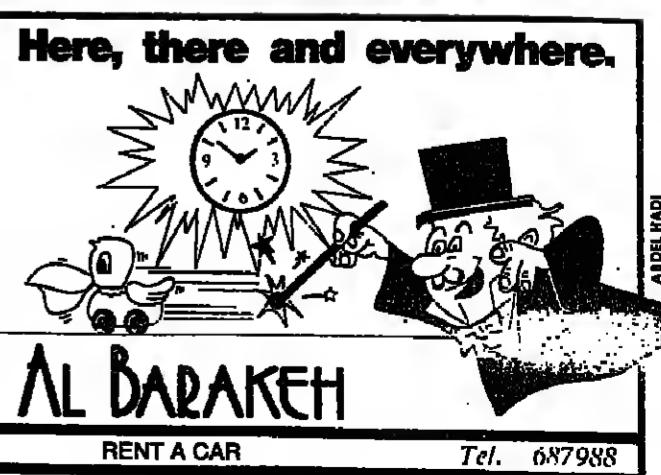
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

| One U.S. dollar | Canadian dollar | Deutschmarks |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1.2407/12 | 1.6630/40 | Dutch guilders |
| 1.8700/10 | 1.5265/75 | Swiss francs |
| 34.24/28 | 34.24/28 | Belgian francs |
| 5.6525/75 | 5.6525/75 | French francs |
| 1603/1608 | 1603/1608 | Italian lire |
| 117.70/71 | 117.70/71 | Japanese yen |
| 7.7325/52 | 7.7325/52 | Swedish kronas |
| 7.0750/850 | 7.0750/850 | Norwegian kronas |
| 6.3825/3925 | 6.3825/3925 | Danish kronas |
| 1.4310/20 | 1.4310/20 | |
| \$326.35/326.85 | \$326.35/326.85 | |

LONDON FINANCIAL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 10/03/1993 - 10/04/1993

NOTES: TOTAL

CORPORATE & INVESTMENT BANKS

GENERAL TRADING & SPONSORING

ARMED FORCES & EDUCATION

JORDAN PETROLEUM INVESTMENT BOARD

GENERAL IMPORT & EXPORT

GENERAL TRADING & INVESTMENT

Around 200 die in Bombay blasts

BOMBAY (AP) — A series of car bombs exploded across Bombay Friday, killing almost 200 people and injuring 800. Two of the blasts set fire to skyscrapers housing India's largest stock exchange and the headquarters of its international airline.

Scattered Hindu-Muslim violence erupted in several areas of the city after the explosions. Witnesses saw about 25 Hindus set two cars afire in a Muslim neighbourhood. In another area, Muslims torched a building and threw stones indiscriminately.

Chief Minister Sharad Pawar, the state's top official who reported the casualty figures, told reporters that the bombing was planned to be a deliberate effort to "spread panic." But he did not speculate who might be responsible.

At least 12 bombs went off within 75 minutes across various districts of India's financial capital, including seven in the commercial district, S.B. Chavan, the federal home minister said. Two tourist hotels were also damaged.

"There is panic in the whole of Bombay," said Harpreet Kaur, 29, a stock broker in a building opposite the stock exchange. "Nobody has had time to think about who is responsible. People have been busy trying to find out what happened and find the victim," she said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Pawar warned Bombay's 12 million citizens to be on alert for more bombs, to look their cars and check the basements of tall buildings.

"There has to be perfect planning" for this kind of action, Mr. Pawar said. He called it an

attempt to disrupt the stability that was returning to Bombay after the January riots.

About 600 people were killed in the Bombay riots, which were an extension of the nationwide violence in December that began after Hindu extremists tore down a Muslim shrine on disputed bony ground in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya. In the nationwide riots 1,940 were killed.

In New Delhi, Deputy Home Minister Rajesh Pilot told lawmakers that all the explosions were from car bombs. He said the government issued a nationwide alert.

At least 20 burned and mutilated bodies were removed from the 23-storey Air India Airline building, most of them from the Bank of Oman on the street level which was gutted.

The 28-storey stock exchange building caught fire from the explosion at 1:30 p.m. (0000 GMT). Stock brokers and investors bolted from the building in panic. Some people were trampled to death in a stampede of people fleeing to the streets, Press Trust of India said. The blast came in the middle of trading when the second-floor exchange is most crowded.

About 3,000 stock brokers, traders and employees work on the stock exchange floor, and thousands more on the other floors.

United News of India, which had a reporter on the fourth floor, said the blast occurred in basement parking garage, blew up more than 30 cars, and shattered windows up to the third floor.

Some people were stranded on upper floors when security officials closed smoky staircases. Other people broke windows on lower floors and tried to jump out.

Ms. Kaur said many of the injured were street vendors and unregistered stock traders who conduct their business outside the building. "There were so many dead bodies outside in the street," she said. Smoke billowed from the lower floors, as people poured out of the entrance.

Mr. Saxena submitted his resignation to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Wednesday.

Gen. K.V. Krishna Rao, the newly appointed governor, will be returning to the office he held four years ago.

Kashmir has been governed by a federally appointed governor since January 1990, when the elected government headed by Farook Abdullah resigned.

Mr. Abdullah, considered close to Krishna Rao, said in an interview he expected talks to begin with militant organisations on granting Kashmir a greater degree of autonomy than anywhere else in India.

Muslim militants are fighting to split Jammu and Kashmir state from India either to merge it with Pakistan or to become an independent country.

Kashmir is the only Muslim majority state in India. Nationally, India is 82 per cent Hindu and 12 per cent Muslim.

Another went off at Shivaji Park near the headquarters of the radical Hindu group Shiv Sena, which was blamed for inciting some of the worst anti-Muslim violence in January.

The switch at the top of the state administration may not satisfy secessionist Muslims.

"We are not bothered who is governor. We are struggling for freedom and only freedom from India is our goal," said John Mohammad, a businessman from Srinagar.



Ethnic Vietnamese fishermen offload coffins carrying the remains of the 34 ethnic Vietnamese massacred by the Khmer Rouge (AFP photo)

Khmer Rouge massacre 34 ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodian village

CHONG KNEAS, Cambodia (R) — Guerillas who massacred 34 ethnic Vietnamese villagers in northwest Cambodia, including children shot in the head or drowned, were Khmer Rouge guerrillas, local people said Friday.

"Pol Pot, Pol Pot," villagers shouted to journalists, naming the infamous leader of the Maoist group that Cambodia through a reign of terror in the 1970s that killed a million people.

Ten children were killed in the Wednesday-night raid on this floating village by as many as 40 gunmen armed with AK-47 rifles, police told Reuters.

There were babies with their hands shot off ... (the attackers) got into one houseboat and shot the kids in the head. It's that savage," a U.N. investigator said.

"They arrived by boat and carried out the attack with military precision."

A U.N. spokesman said there were 60 government soldiers and policemen in the village at the time of the attack but they apparently offered no resistance and fled.

"They are reported to have escaped and none of them suffered any casualties," spokesman Eric Falt told reporters.

A floating police station is moored 500 yards from the site of the massacre.

Many of the bodies recovered had been shot in the head and shoulders, indicating they had been killed while trying to swim for safety, a U.N. source said.

Many of the 1,200 inhabitants of the floating village had jumped overboard when the hour-long attack began shortly after 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

On Friday 15 coffins were littered about the village of lashed rafts and houseboats, segregated from the residences of ethnic Cambodians since a wave of violence against Vietnamese began last year.

There were bullet holes throughout the floating structures, especially a video parlour where nearly half of the dead had been watching a film when caught by surprise.

It was the worst atrocity in Cambodia since the country's four rival factions signed a peace accord in October 1991. U.N. sources said Khmer Rouge guerrillas from Regiment 91 of Division 980 are suspected of responsibility.

Diplomats say the Khmer

Rouge hope to undermine the Hanoi-installed government by exploiting anti-Vietnamese sentiment.

Rivalry between Cambodia

and Vietnam stretches back centuries and the Vietnamese issue is fertile ground for rabble-rousing by all opposition political factions.

Diplomats believe Pol Pot,

who has formally retired, still directs the operations of the Khmer Rouge.

N. Korea reneges on nuclear pact

SEOUL (R) — Communist North Korea, suspected of building an atomic arsenal said Friday it was pulling out of a world accord on nuclear arms limitation despite the threat of U.N. sanctions against its crippled economy.

Pyongyang said it would scrap its membership of the 1970 nuclear arms non-proliferation treaty (NPT), which limits the spread of military nuclear technology, rather than allow international inspectors into its sites.

"The withdrawal from the NPT is a well-justified self-defensive measure against the nuclear war manoeuvres of the United States," North Korea said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KANA).

South Korea, its relations with the North already at a frosty low, said Pyongyang's withdrawal was an unexpected blow to delicate moves and would further divorce the isolated state from the world community.

China remains Pyongyang's major ally but, mindful of the North's increasing isolation and its own bid to foster better international relations, Peking has pressed the North to settle peacefully its nuclear inspection dispute.

China's use of a veto if the Security Council were to call a vote on North Korean sanctions was therefore by no means a certainty, analysts said.

The U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), last month gave Pyongyang until March 25 to admit its inspectors to the North's nuclear programme," a senior government official said.

Japanese leaders urged the north to reconsider.

"It is really dismaying," said Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said it was a challenge to the international system of controlling nuclear proliferation.

Radio Japan said its Korean

broadcasts were jammed Friday by Pyongyang for the first time, along with those of the South Korean station KBS.

"They don't want their people to know they have left the treaty," said a Radio Japan official.

South Korea said the North was highly likely to face United Nations Security Council economic sanctions, a penalty the impoverished state can ill afford following the collapse of communism and the loss of its principal backers.

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North Korea, which denies any intention of developing nuclear weapons, says the two sites are non-nuclear military installations

and are outside the ambit of IAEA inspectors.

PyonYang's Friday statement, monitored in Tokyo, said the IAEA was being manipulated by the United States, which withdrew its nuclear arms from the peninsula last year.

North Korea's belligerent stance against most of the world, and in particular against South Korea and the United States, has intensified in recent days.

On Tuesday PyongYang went

on to what military chief Kim Jong-il called a "semi-war" footprint to coincide with the start of U.S.-South Korean military exercises south of the demilitarized zone, the cold war frontier which bisects the Korean peninsula.

While Seoul and Washington

say the annual Team Spirit man-

oeuvres are purely defensive, PyongYang calls them a pretext for a nuclear attack on the North.

IAEA sources said Friday

North Korea's withdrawal from

the pact is a grave step and the international community will have to consider the implications.

It was unprecedented for any

signatory of the nuclear non-

proliferation treaty to scrap its

membership, sources at the

IAEA said.

"It is a grave step for North

Korea to take ... the international

community will have to look at

the implications of what has been

announced," an IAEA source

told Reuters.

Hong Kong presses on with reform bill

HONG KONG (R) — Governor Chris Patten told Hong Kong's legislature Friday he would press ahead with a bill on democratic reforms after the failure of last-minute diplomatic efforts to open talks with China.

China has bitterly attacked Mr. Patten's plans, which have been delayed repeatedly in the hope that talks leading to an agreement on 1995 elections could be held with Peking.

Mr. Patten said the legislation based on his proposals to let Hong Kong people elect a majority of their legislators in 1995 were being published in the government Gazette Friday.

Mr. Patten said the British side had insisted that their team in any

negotiations would include Hong Kong's Secretary for Constitutional Affairs Michael Sze and be headed by Britain's ambassador to China.

There would be no distinction

made between those members of

the team from London and those from Hong Kong, he said.

China has demanded that Lon-

don and Peking alone decide on

the colony's political future.

"Unfortunately the outstanding differences have not been resolved," Mr. Patten told the Legislative Council, adding that the reform legislation would be published and a decision on when to present it to the council for debate would be made later.

"We remain ready to hold talks

with the Chinese side without preconditions," he said.

On Thursday, China sent a

diplomatic message to the British

embassy in Peking little more

than an hour before Mr. Patten

had been expected to tell legisla-

tors that publication of the bill

would go ahead Friday.

Mr. Patten immediately post-

poned his scheduled address to

the legislature by 24 hours, saying

he wanted to study the message.

Stock prices plummeted about

three per cent on Hong Kong's

nervous exchange as Mr. Patten

spoke. They had risen to record

highs a few days ago on hopes

that Britain and China were ab-

out to end the war of oases that

began last October when Mr.

Patten unveiled his reform plans.

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